

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09505 071008Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 ICA-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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P 070958Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6836

UNCLAS MANILA 09505

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON AMBASSADOR MURPHY ARRIVAL

1. NEWSPAPER COMMENT: EVENING EXPRESS EXTENDED A WARM EDITORIAL WELCOME, QUOTING EXTENSIVELY THE AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL COMMENTS AND CONCLUDING THAT "MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING" SHOULD NOT BE LACKING AMONG FRIENDS. COLUMNIST DOROY VALENCIA IN THE DAILY EXPRESS GAVE THE AMBASSADOR A SAMPLE OF HIS STYLE, COMMENTING ON THE AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL OF INTENT TO DESTABILIZE BY STATING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. HE THEN DEVOTES THE REST OF HIS COLUMN TO HIS USUAL DIATRIBE AGAINST THE WESTERN AND AMERICAN PRESS AND HTHE U.S. CONGRESS, PERHAPS IN AN EFFORT TO "EDUCATE" THE NEW AMBASSADOR. ERNESTO GRANADA IN THE TIMES JOURNAL SAYS THE AMBASSADOR COMES WELL PREPARED FOR HIS JOB, BUT UNFORTUNATELY HE IS STUCK WITH THAT SAME EMBASSY STAFF LEFT BEHIND BY SULLIVAN AND NEWSOM -- "DIPLOMATIC CAREERISTS WITH HOSTILE VIEWS OF THE PHILIPPINES..." EXPRESS' EDITORIAL PAGE CARTOON HAS AMBASSADOR RIDING IN SMALL BOAT STATING "THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES TO 'DESTABILIZE' THE PHILIPP...OUCH*
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THE "OUCH" CAUSED BY THE TIP OF A SHARP DRILL COMING THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT.
DRILL WELDED BY A CHARACTER LABELLED, "U.S. EDITOR," A REFERENCE TO YESTERDAY'S MEDIA PLAY (SEE MANILA 09389).

2. ARRIVAL-RELATED NEWS ITEM: EXPRESS CARRIED ITEM WHICH QUOTED FOREIGN SECRETARY GENERAL ROMULO THAT MILITARY

PANELS WILL MEET SOON ON THE BASES. ALSO QUOTED HIS
REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S ASSURANCE ON NON-INTERFERENCE,
SAYING, "THAT IS THE PROPER ATTITUDE. WE DON'T EXPECT
ANYTHING LESS." DAWSON

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Message Attributes

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